

prisons into the county prisons, thereby placing the prisons under more efficient management, and effecting a great saving of expense. He was appointed one of the visitors of the prison for juvenile offenders at Parkhurst, and one of the commissioners of Millbank prison.

Notwithstanding his official duties, Mr. Perry took an active interest in several branches of science; for some time he was on the Council of the Zoological Society. Although his avocations prevented him from making regular astronomical observations, he, nevertheless, made himself well acquainted with astronomical phenomena, and availed himself of such opportunities as a London residence permitted for familiarising himself with such objects as could be studied with a $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch telescope. In 1860 he took part in the Himalaya Eclipse Expedition, and made some observations from his station near Burgos.

Owing to the impaired state of his health, Mr. Perry felt it necessary to resign his appointment in the summer of 1869, and after much bodily suffering he died at the age of sixty-seven, in January 1870.

ARTHUR KETT BARCLAY* was born on the 20th of June, 1806. He was educated at Harrow, having previously been instructed by a tutor, under whom he acquired much information in chemistry and geology. During the years 1829 to 1833 he made the tour of north and south Europe. In early life he was much associated with Faraday, and subsequently became a Fellow of the Astronomical, Geological, and Geographical Societies; and in 1852 was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. At the age of twenty he was actively engaged in the brewery of Barclay, Perkins, and Co., where he continued an acting partner until nearly the end of his life.

He was one of the treasurers to the Commissioners of the Great Exhibition of 1851. He was a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant of the county of Surrey, and was also captain of the Dorking troop of yeomanry until the regiment was disbanded in 1837.

He took an active part in the politics of the country as a strong Conservative, though he would never consent to be brought forward as a candidate.

He studied astronomy for some years at Norbury, near Croydon, where he had a small observatory of his own construction. In 1848 he built the observatory at Bury Hill. The revolving dome was by Ransomes and May of Ipswich, and the equatorial 8-inch object-glass by Troughton and Simms.

Though much engaged in business and county work, he assiduously continued his observations until he was struck down by paralysis in 1855. Happily his mind was not affected, though he never again was able to continue his work; and after nearly

* This obituary notice of Mr. A. K. Barclay was received too late for insertion in the last Annual Report.

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fifteen years of a precarious life, he at last sank under another attack.

PROCEEDINGS OF VARIOUS OBSERVATORIES.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich.

The work at the Royal Observatory since the date of the last Report has been of the same character as in previous years, the Moon being considered still the most important subject of observation.

During the past year the usual meridional observations of the Sun, Moon, and Planets, have been made with the Transit Circle, whilst the Moon has been observed with the altazimuth on every available opportunity, together with a high star and the collimator for the determination of the instrumental errors.

For the last four months the observations of the small planets have been continued all through the lunation, instead of merely in the first half, as it appeared probable that no observations would be made in Paris during the continuance of the siege. This has necessarily pressed rather heavily on the observers, though no serious inconvenience has been experienced in consequence, notwithstanding the absence of Mr. Carpenter on Dr. Huggins' Oran Expedition.

Two satisfactory series of observations of the Solar Eclipse have been made with the great equatoreal and with the altazimuth respectively, the reduction of which has thrown a large amount of extra labour on the computing staff of the Observatory, though the usual reductions have proceeded without interruption. Although dense clouds obscured the Sun in the early part of the eclipse, numerous measures of the differences of R. A. and N.P.D. of the limbs of the Sun and Moon and of the differences of N. P. D. of the cusps were taken with the former instrument during the progress of the eclipse, in accordance with a carefully-arranged plan of observation. From these the corrections to the tabular differences of R. A. and N. P. D., and to the semi-diameters of the Sun and Moon (the latter, of course, affected with twice the amount of irradiation) have been deduced with great accuracy. The errors of Hansen's Tables appear from these observations to be sensibly the same near conjunction as in other parts of the Moon's orbit.

With the altazimuth three sets of double azimuths of the Moon's second limb and six of the first limb, together with three pairs of zenith distances of the upper limb were taken while the Moon was on the Sun's face, giving the diameter in azimuth as well as the tabular error in Right Ascension and North Polar Distance. This determination of the diameter, combined with measures of the azimuthal diameter of the bright Moon previously taken, will, it is expected, give data for obtaining the amount of solar or lunar irradiation in this instrument.